

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SAB-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 L-01 AF-04 SP-02

SCCT-01 EA-06 ARA-06 SSO-00 INRE-00 /067 W

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O P 150336Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5369

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0132

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL MIDDLE EAST DEBATE: STATUS OF
ARAB RESOLUTION DRAFTING

1. ARAB EFFORTS TO FORMULATE RESOLUTIONS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL
MEMBERS OF THE ARAB GROUP ARE AT A REMARKABLY TENTATIVE STAGE,
CONSIDERING THE TIME PUT IN. MEMBERS OF DRAFTING GROUP TELL US
FOUR DRAFTS ARE CURRENTLY IN PLAY (SOME OF THEM MUTUALLY
EXCLUSIVE,) AND THAT THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF COMING UP
WITH AN AGREED TEXT BEFORE EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2. DRAFT NUMBER ONE IS ORIGINAL SYRIAN PAPER. (WE HAVE NOW SEEN
IT, AND IT IS IDENTICAL TO TEXT REPORTED IN CAIRO 388.)

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REACTION OF ARAB MODERATES IS THAT IT IS FINE IN PRINCIPLE, BUT

WOULD DRAW THREE VETOES AND SEVERAL OTHER NO VOTES AND ABSTENTIONS. IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED, DESPITE SYRIAN WISH TO GO AHEAD WITH ITS RESOLUTION ALONE, TO PREPARE TWO RESOLUTIONS, ONE OF WHICH STOOD A CHANCE OF BEING ADOPTED. THESE WERE LABELED PALESTINE AND MIDDLE EAST DRAFTS, FORMER BEING THE ONE ARABS HOPED WOULD ESCAPE VETO. (WE SENSE OBJECTIVE IN THIS EXERCISE HAS NOW BECOME TO AVOID MORE THAN ONE VETO, MOST ARABS BELIEVING THEIR MINIMUM DEMAND FOR A REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN "RIGHTS" WOULD BE VETOED BY U.S.)

3. A THREE-MAN DRAFTING COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO PREPARE THE PALESTINE RESOLUTION, CONSISTING OF MAHAMASSANI, ZAHQWI AND SAYEGH OF LEBANON, IRAQ AND KUWAIT PLO, RESPECTIVELY. WE UNDERSTAND THERE ARE NOW TWO VERSIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION. FIRST HAS TWO PARAGRAPHS, IN SUBSTANCE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) HAVING CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE BEGIN BRACKET OR PERHAPS "THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE" END BRACKETS

(B) REAFFIRMS THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION, TO RETURN, AND TO A SOVEREIGN ENTITY IN PALESTINE.

SECOND VERSION WOULD ADD TO ABOVE FOLLOWING TWO PARAGRAPHS:

(A) HAVING HEARD THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLO; AND

(B) CONSIDERS THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ARE A PRINCIPAL PARTY TO A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

4. FOURTH DRAFT IN PLAY, ONE THE MIDDLE EAST, IS THE MOST INCHOATE OF ALL. EGYPTIANS BELIEVE IT SHOULD ADDRESS THREE QUESTIONS: WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, REAFFIRMATION OF 242 AND 338, AND A CALL FOR RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. SINCE ARABS DIFFER AMONG THEMSELVES ON SECOND AND THIRD POINTS, THEY HAVE NOT MADE MUCH HEADWAY ON THIS RESOLUTION.

5. NON-ALIGNED ARE BEGINNING TO GET INTO THE DRAFTING ACT. ACCORDING TO TANZANIANS, NON-ALIGNED HAVE TOLD ARABS THEY WILL ACCEPT NOTHING UNLESS ARABS THEMSELVES HAVE REACHED CONSENSUS. (THIS CLEARLY FAVORS MODERATE ARABS, PARTICULARLY EGYPTIANS.) ANOTHER REPORT HAS IT THAT NON-ALIGNED HAVE INFORMED ARAB DRAFTERS THAT, UNLESS THEY PRODUCE AN AGREED TEXT OVER WEEKEND, CONFIDENTIAL

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NON-ALIGNED WILL TABLE THEIR OWN RESOLUTION. IT WOULD CONTAIN THREE ELEMENTS:

(A) TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967;

(B) AFFIRMATION OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS; AND

(C) RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF EVERY STATE IN THE AREA

TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES.

IN PART, THIS "NON-ALIGNED" ACTIVITY WOULD APPEAR TO BE PERSONAL EFFORT OF SC PRESIDENT SALIM OF TANZANIA TO QUICKEN THE PACE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760016-0681
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760152/aaaabuau.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL MIDDLE EAST DEBATE: STATUS OF ARAB RESOLUTION DRAFTING
TAGS: PFOR, XF, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006